

The Rose that grew From Concrete

Typacmarlion



Hes talent was unbounded. a raw fores that commanded attention and respect.

Hes death was tragic-a violent homage to the power of his voice.

His legacy is indomitableremamang vibrant and alien.

Here now, newly discovered, are Iupac's mos l honest and intimate thoughts conveyed through the pure art of poetry-a mirror into has enigmatic life and its many contradictions.

Written in his own hand at the age of nineteen, they embrace his spirit, his energy and his ultimate message of hope.
-The Rosecthat grew From Concrete

TUPAC SHAKUR recarded twelve landmark altums - mine of which went either platinum or gold. A consummale actor, be also appeared in six major motion piclures. encluding Poetic Justice, Juce, Gridloch d. and Gang Related He was murdered at the age al twenty-five.


Tupac Shakur understood the power of words. whetier through the rap genre that made him a musical icem or Ihe poetry he wrote in has privale moments. Now. bringing together generations and cultures, The Rose That Grew from Concrete, Volume f, demonstrales the power of his words to inspire as poets, musical artists and acters interpret 25 of his poems from the posthumously published book The fose That Grew From Concrele Four years after his departure, Tupac continues to educate us.

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AT Orgina Publication of WTV HOOKS/POCKET LAOOKS


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## To Our Children

We musu supporl our children in ever way we cath We must allow our
 chiddren and thank there for their gilt of imspiration. We musit motivate our chidern spirilatly. Wi muse challenge our children to at higher
 and improve thoir oneratl futhatity of lift:-

50 we say to our chtidren dras. paint, write adt sirs dance, think. express, and be free to drean always Noish ha, ballk, [mani, Zahra,

 Valencia, Adaija, Lianné, Lil lanarli, Main, Kaí, Mana, Remi, Rylie, Etanı. Lejgh, Stadurata, Talia, Devanee, Nikko, Domouriat Alana. Henry MT, Marquesisa, Emsly, Audrey, Andrew, Alyssa, Mathow, Bromke, Alex, Arjelle, Jonothen, Ashiley, Kayla, Jaw, Rafi, Chatial, and Coy.

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-Alema Shakite

My thildren, Shaquan, Talia, Devance, Nikko, and all my othot children, you are the reason I do this, my cup rumeth over. Akni Shakur, you ghe your orily son to mot just mes. but to the workl. So many times whes I have not had the strength to evers get out wh bed. it is Fac's spiril that gives me beanth. It is you Who gave his sparil breath. for this and lor allowing we tor continue hiss wotk. I Cantuol pul into words my gratitucle. Thesth yon, Tupace, I will comtinue to do your work with the portion of my soul that you clictal tathe with yout.

## Preface

Celebrate lifethrough the mutsic:
through the spoken wordthrough the splatter ofcolor on paper
or wood
or iron
or canvas
Bul cetebrate your life
Cetebrate your abilityto feel joy and
sadness
Celebrate your ability to fecl!
Onty then will we be free to
Feel!

I thambe God and all my ancestors for the Artistic Tupace, for the Poetic Tupac. There was never a day wher Tupac did now apperiate lampage. The somm and the rhythm of words did not indindate hims. He sought to interpoed tis wodd usims ald the wisual and linguistice tonls availethle to hine. The battle
between the discipline of intefleal and the ravings of the toul is a fascinating ome.

These pocms were written from 1989 to 1991. reflecting the hearl and soul of my son. They represent the process of at young arlist's journey to understand and accept a world of unthinkatble contradictionse. I always believed Tupac's work can ard does speali for itsell. ] have nothing to add or detract-my responsitrijily is to clo all 1 can to make sure the has been heard in verumes and milieus that are approptate to what he himsell pave to his life and his work.

Tupas ful these poems in the safekerping of Leilat Stemberg. Who was 'lupac's first prolessiomal manager and adult friend. We are indebted to Laila bor her integrity in lookings ales the stety wil Tupanes monk. Her loyalty has allowed us the ability to offer this worlk in this mediums.

Tupace had quite a few friends whose artiont regarding his artistice integrity reflect a subcorsioms bellef that he is still in the room, We thank all those of his peers. finemds, awd busimess associales who continute to act as thongh Tupter were still in the room. Thank you mue banulful and wonderful som youre a perteot mitror of my soull

> When you're rwi here
> I meastre dhe space
> You used to Docupy.
> Large arects betome
> wast arat endess
> deserts of ?
> mon flere:

## Foreword: Tupac, $\mathrm{C} U$ in Heaven

I'm ghad this collemion of the postry of Thpac Shakar iss bumg published. Those of us who reconaize not only gemist but light knew early on that yoump Shakur was spoceand. We lit up the screm in Juice and Above the Rim. Itis maps were tight amad stroug. We all said to ourselves. "Something good js corning"

1 guess it will always be the case that what someone brings a new iffa or, more accurately. a truthful idea there will be complaincs. There will alwas be those people, espocianly those people who are wronse, who thy to shut the eruth and dauing down. I remember when The Sugar Hill Gemg started the "New Rap Revolution" and thes were luni Grandmothers in stupid movies could imilate their rap, and old mern coutd retum liom Cocoon nux break-dance. It was jusit so, well, cute to play off Fap. Thes along came Tupate. You don't see any semior Letke-offs on his art, You dornt sce llume Cmony atud his Friends hip hopping dowis the street to Holler If Ya Hear Me. No graler partics with Grandma boppirss up to Something 2 Die 4. So thoy Found a mame, Gangesa kap, to sometow distingush it from, what? Pobite, nice, highly compromised rap' They triod Lo isolate that beatiful boy who was trying to bring on the troull so that they combd bood us with lies and exeuses.

Peopld: will still stand upand swy really stupid thinss like "I don'c think pmome laterage should be usod" or "they ate
afways cursing and stull, and 1 thimk they can make their point without bad language," Fut I aways think bat language is "subwol voumbers." "Iower limes bn capital gains," "dom'l ask dorn't tell," and danguage like that, which, silently or tot so silently, kills people who are diferent from what we want to think we are, Bul who, in truth, are not so different after all. Chiddren have to be educated; the corred eitizens to pay haxes ate those who have monteyt people buve a right at thoin own hearts, but mostly what 1 keep secing is the emplimess of lives than have notbing better to do than judge and condernan. Tupac once sada, "Only God can judge nue." I say good for fith. He had haken that step to understand that no mather what any of them say you thave an obligalion to the univetse to follow your bwh muse.

I like Tupac Shakur ir the same why I liked frince when he wasi Frimee. When hu: wote musice that was a bit edpy, a bit but there, a bit daring, whatever furned that bealiful boy, the: "rude hoy," into a whiny symbol shoulel rot in five diflerent hells. Tupac stayed lresh and stronse and commided to himsell and his peopke. Yet as this collection shoms, twe was a semsitive somb. The poens for the lovers in this life for his mother'. For fris child in haworn show a boy who touches our souls. This. too, is Tupuc. Just as people want to make: Malcolm X an intefrationist, thereby changing the mature of his darime and his truth, people want us wo werlook the somstivicy and love Tupac Shakur shows because, after all, il he loves, ill be cries, if he cares, if he, in other words, is not a montster, then what have we done? what a sreat crime has bean commited in the name of, what, the status que? How dwful and ugly of us.

One day, in the not too distant future, there will be a pathering in atanta fituch like tho ons in Memplas. Fou remember

Mermptis ant Gratedand. The Posimaster Gomeral of the Whited States invited Livis's family members to unveil dite urdishe concepts of Elvis. There was an 800 number for the young pretty. slime Elvis antel amother 800 mumber for the hat, drugged out Elvis. We the puble were invited to phome jn oha chomes, fatel that would be the stamp. When the Malcomi $X$ stamp was chosen, there was no gathering at Betty Shabazz's Dome. No call-
 Postmaster General. No artists formestims, inwiting the pubtio: to choose between a smiling Malcolm and that Frowny byly thins they produced. No choice between a Malcolm-and-Betty shan! and a Malcolm-hy-himseld starap. In fact, as usual, white people decided what Black peophle should want atad dicl as they wished with the image of our hero. The Tupan stamp utusi go public. We, the public, demand the right to make choices. I wath ant intate of a thoughtiol Tiphae with the words: C U in Heaven. Fle deserves to be taken seriously and we must therefore momurn.


## Introduction

Tupase fell that throngla art we cond incile a sew revolution that incorpored che hwart, mind, body. spiril, ated thul. He wanted his art to instill honesty, integrity, and respect.

It was the spring of 1989 in Matrin Gitw, whem at poung man
 infections lang began to make his way mine my life. I was sitting
 Mandela's Part of My Soul Went thith Him A young man with bisg beanliful sparkling eves cume up behind me guating lines aloud from the book. It lagcinated me dtai he knew the lines by hear, when be introduced himself as Tupac, I realized that he
 writer and producer working in the musie todustry and toe was am aspising rapper looking for a manager. I did not have time to
 multicultural edtacational program, "Young lriaghentions." However, I was so inmpressed with him that 1 invited him to sit in on 1 ny clatss.

After chass, Tupac began to share his ideas on Jow the arts would be included in shon curriculums to belp youth address
 By combining art with education. Tupac felt we could begin ta heal socicty's paina and conduajor

I bater imited tion to participate in a weekly whiting circle 1

Furd at my houst. L Lis dirst tine there. he momediately tooli over and dereited that we woukd write about whan the weated. roth what 1 wanked. One of the litst poems 'lupac wrote with us"Ihe Ruse That Grew from Concrete"- talls youl at trat deal about him in jusi a tew limes. Tupae was the rose that grow in spite of all obstactes. [lis life shows that a young man/boy mold lise. shine, grow, and blomm beyond arerbeations cotadiLions to becomes ouse of Ablerien's most belowed mem. He also
 nuents, in twency-five years, far surpass what most frople do in
 dime. We were all broke and struggling. but tupac was the only one who had ever really tasied fromery; dilly foe coulal hates potatore whom thure was no meat and mate the best tacos you ever tasted; and only he could make a gourmet menl ous of Top Ramen mondes. He was as artios who bocatice the groups greatem inspiration. Whithir four wecks of our meeting. Tupac appointed me his manager.

II has been sereral yours simeo Tujate has passed, and a chay does not go by that I do not think of him. 1 have trept a collection of the many poens that he wrote durimg the time of our
 Shakur thal popular auture has yet to realize existed-pen sive, introspective, loving ankl emecerrad athout work alfats. Thuer: is no bexter way to get inside the mind and heat of an artist than to examine his artistic expressions. I hope these
 sithoity, insight revolutionary mind, fears, passion, and sense
 and unequivocal. However, bis place as a literary artist/poet fas yed to be recogujecol.
f hope these poems, which Thpte wrote from his heat, will encourage people to taks: the lirst sleps necessavy to set hith Jinerany importance, as well as have ns acknowledge the life strusples of young black men. Written wheru Tupane was mineteen, this poetry is free from the restraints of the maside industrey and all monetary pussurcs. It is froe of the angel that canc frome getiong shot, betrayed. and thrown in fanl for a crime 1 believe he atwo commited. It is Tupac before his lamue.

For the past sevor yonst, Tupacts writhes have been one of my moss powerdul teaching cools. f have participated in programs in schools, youllo facilities, and a number of prisors all over the contry. My most exciling work began in 1997 when Arvand Elifur invited me to participate in Hestory 98: The Poetry and History of Tupac Shatur. This was atass Arvarad Wat dewtoping at LOC Berkeley. Shumethe Iron all races and backgrounds patiospated. discussing such issuct ats single parenting and povery. Souderits and uminersities throustome.
 compiled to itsitiate: bojor man Tupac curtculure. Tupare was finally being recognized by achathotias.
[nt the summer of 1998 , 1 assiswd Ahtai Shakur. Tupac's mother' in developing the lirsal amual summer youth eormer ence, "Life Goes On," we spert nobre than a weekend in Sparta, Georgin, using Tupacs lytics to conduct worlishops that resulted in bringing now life into the hearts and minds of theose: in attendanoe. Participants traveled fromall over the nation to take atwathase of the hoaling tool lupac telt as, hiss words. The following Alugush. I wats invited as a delegate to the Intersualomal Women's Convention in Johmomeshnres Sonth Africa, to conduct a workstofy with Fridd Picket on the power of


Tupaces writhigs, I bave since beem imited to the Nednerlands and Costa Fica to conduct similar programming.

Now, Tupac's work, and especially these poms, are arail-
 those who have not given l'upac a fair chance-the same people Who are quick to jurdge Tupac batied on the nedia's somerimes neganm: [ortayal. Thuate's pooms can teach us about uniwersa] weds that textboks rarely adkless, Poems such as 'Rund 2 mornow" and "Slifl I Wait for Dawal" spati of the need lo sancive find wat for a better day. They also teater us that humanty ats a whole suffers if anyone staves, Unfortumaty it took his

-LfildStainafre

The Rose that grew From Concrete

The Rose that grew From Concrete
Autobiographical
Dou Hear about the rose that grew from a crack in the congreve.
Proving Natures laws wrong it learned 2 walk without Having feet.
Funny it seems But By Keeping its Dreams ft leaned 2 Breathe fresh air
Long live the rose That grew from concrete when no one else evens cared!

# The Rose That Grew from Concrete Autobiographical 

Did u bear about the rose that grew from a oreckin the comercteProwing nature's liaws wrong it learmed 2 walkwithout having feet.
Funny it seems but by keeping its dreams
it learmed 2 breallie fresh anr
Long live the rose thal grew from concrete
when no one else even cared!

In IHE DeptHs of SoLitude Dedicated $z$ me
exist in the Depths of Solitude ponder ing my tone Goal - Trying 2 fid d peace of vino and stan preserve my soul Constantly yearning 2 be accepted and from all receive respect Never Comprising but Sometimes Risky and that is my Only Regret
A young with an old Souk How Can there De
ten Can Be in the depths of Solitude Wien There $R^{2} 2$ inside of Me This Duo within the causes The perfect opportunity

2 learn and live juice as fast a ${ }^{6}$ chose who accept simplicity

## In the Depths of Solitude

Dedicated 2 Mc
1 exist in the depths of solitude
pondering my true goal
Trying 2 dind peace of minad
and still presemve my soul
CONSTANTLY yearnund 2 be accpicd
and from all receive respact
Never compromisinis but sometimes risky
and thed is rmy only rogret
A young hcart with an old soul
how can there be preace
How can I be in the depths of solitude
when there R 2 inside of me
This Dun within me catuses
the perled opportunity
2 leam and live twice as fast
as those who accept simplicity

CoMer, $x$ et er CRu
Somerimes when I'm alone
I cry because Il on my own
The Tears I Cry Biter Gid warm
They flow with life but Take na form I cry Became my heart is Torn ans ed I find it difficult 2 cary on if I- hod ans eco 2 confide in I could cry among my treasured friends But who Bo u Enow that stops that long -Ta help another carry on

- The wo ld mover fist cod it would rather parsuby than 2 stop and c what makes u cry It's painful and Sad and Sometimes I- cry No one bores about why.


## Sometimes I Cry

Sometimes when I'm alone
I cry because I'm on my own
The lears I cry R bitter and warm
They flow wilh life but take no form
I cry becaluse my heart is torn
and I find it difficult 2 carry on
If I had an ear 2 confide int
I would ery among my treasured friends
But who do a know that stops that lones
to help another carty on
The world moves fast and it would rather pass a by
than 2 stop and $o$ what makes is cry
ll's painiful and sad and sometimes I ery
and no one cares about why.

Under the Skies Above "m. After the miscarriage.
my child is out There Somewhere under the sties Above
Waiting anxiously 4 a and me 2. Bless it with our Love a part of the a part of $u$ and a part of this love we share will protect my - tern child
Whoa fires dormant ont there some where Sometimes in my Dreams
I imagine what it would Be hike. How could I property guide him when even I dons know what's right Whether he is Born ins meath or Poverty There wit be no deficiency in Lore I welcome phis giro of lite given from (TOD under the skies a rove

## Under the Skies Above

 After the MiscamiageMy child is out there somewhere moder the skits above waiting atriously 4 ul and me
2 bless it with our love A part of me a pard of u and a part of this love we shatre will protect my umbor's child who lives dommant out there somewhere Sometimes in my dreams
I imegine whel it would be like
How could I properly gnide bim
when cren I donld know what's fight
Whether he is born in wealth or poverty
there will be no deficiency in love
I welcome this gift of life
given from GOD under the skies above

Life Tirrouctt my eyes
Life through my bloodshot eyes would scare a square 2 death
poverty, murder, violence
and never a moment $Z$ rest
fur and games R few
But treasured like gold 2 me
eur I realize that I must return
2 my spot in poverty
But mock my words when I say My heart will not exist. unless my destiny comes through and puts and end 2 all 6 this

## Life Through My Eyes

life through my bloodshot eyeswould scate a square 2 deathpoverty, murder, violonceand mever a moment 2 rest
Furn and games R fow
but treasured like gold 2 me
cuz I realize then [ must return
2 my spot in poverty
But mock my words when I say
my heart will not exist
umless my destimy comes thanom
and puts ant end 2 all of this

When Use Heart Turns Colo
2 KRisten \& my others roans With wonder

When your heart Turns cold
it causes your soul 2 Freeze
IT spreads Trrroughour your spint like a ruthless feeling disease the walls that once were Down Now Stand firm and tall Safe From thare/Love, pain/joy until u feel nothing at all
Whew are heart Turns cold
a Baby's coy means nothing
A Dear corpse is trivet

- Mothers negiectadg chatidren is Dally

Lowliness becomes your confine friend
Death seems like Tranquility
Sleeping is newer pleasant if $u$ evens sleep at all
u forget ideals and Turn off the reasons
2 make sure the product gets sold Vow Done understand How I Behave Dust wart th your hear Turns cold

# When Ure Heart Turns Cold <br> 2 Kristen \& My Other Friends Who Worader 

When your beant turns cold
il causes your soul 2 froeze
[t spreads throughont your spirillike a ruthless feeling discase
The walls that once were down
now stand 「irm and tall
Sale from hatc/love. pain/joy
until un feel nothing at all
When ure beart tuthe cold
a baby's ay means nothing
A doad corpse is trivial
Mothors nespecting children is daily
Loneliness becomes your routine fricnd
Beath scotms like tranduility
Sleeping is never phedsant
if $u$ even stcep at all
u forged jdeals and turn off the reasom
2 make sure the produtet gets sold
You don'd understand how I behave
Just wait till your hearl Lurns Cold.

Please wake me when I'm free
I cornet bear opptinty
where my culture It told' holds no significance
I-1l wither and dis in ignorance
But my inner eye canc a race.
who reigned as kings in another place
The green of trees were Rich ord full and every man spake of Rearitiful men and women together as equals War was gone because all was peaceful But Now like a nightmare I wake z $C$ That I- live like a prisoner of -Poverty Please wake me when It fore e Cannot bear captivity
4 I would rathe be stricken bind Chars 2 live without expression of mind

## Untitled

Please wake me when lim frec
I cannot bear caplivity
where rmy culture I'm told holds no significance
I'll wither and die in ignoramoe
But my inner eye can a a race
who reignod as kings in amother place
the green of trecs were rich and full
and every man spoke of beatiful
nnern and women togethen as equals
Whar was gome beoause all was poacoful
But now like a mightmare I wake 2 c
That 1 liwe like a prisoner ol powerty
Please wakc nic when l'm free
I cannot bat caplivity
4 I would rathere bestricken blind
than 2 live withont exprestion of mind

THE ETERNAL LAMENT
FRom my mind 2 The Depths of my Soul I yearn 2 achieve all of my goals And ML L of my free time will be spent on The is I miss I will lament

I AM NOT A perfectionist
But still I seek Perfection
I am not great Romantic But yet I yearn 4 affection
ETERNally my mind will Produce whys 2 put my talents 2 use and when II done no matter where Ir been Ill yearn 2 do it all again.

## The Eternal Lament

From my mind 2 the depths of my soul
1 ycatx 2 achicve all of nuy goals
And all of my tree time will be spent
On the 1 's I miss I will lament.

I am not. a perfectionist.

## But still I seek jerfection

I an mol a arabl ronnantic
But yed I yeam 4 allection
Eitcmally my mind will produce
ways 2 put my talents 2 use
and when lin done momather where I've been
I'll yoarn 2 do it all again.

Only 4 the Righteous
In Down wish Strictly Dope " 50 " That means I'm more then u handle "Hoy" I'm hotter than the war from a. candle
"Him" that's Roc he's my microphone Companion "Lyrics" Fur of Knowledge Truth and understanding "Hobbies" Rapping is my only recreation. retire" u must be on some kndotdication "why" because xt", Never loosen up my -mic grip "Drugs" never ex dz- In living on ot he right tip "Sex" only with my gid because I love her "Bobbies" "impossible I always use a Rubber "veered" rarely cuz I'm keeping myself Busy
"Scratch" nah I leave the cutting up 2 Bize"
"Bize?" yeh thats my D.J he's tull greatest
"WORD" Nah he's paying me 2 say this
"the Mind" is something that I cultivate and Treasure

* Thanks" Your welcome and besides it was my Pleasure


## Only 4 the Righteous

["m Down witl] strictly Dope "So"
That means J'm more than a can hathede
"Hot" J'm hotler thaty the wax fromal candle:"lim" that s Roc he's Ines nucmophone Compartion
"Lyrics" full of knowlodge truth and umblerstanding
"W lobties" rapping is my on ly recteation
"retire" $u$ must be on some kind of mediation
"wiby" becausc Ill newor loosen up my mic grip
"Trugs" neven cuz I"m livinus orn the right sip
"sex" only with my giv] because I love hes
"Fabios" impossible I always use a rubber
"Bored" rarely ouz I'm keepinur mysell dusy

"Dize?" yeh that's my D.J. he's the greatest
"Word" mak he"s paying me 2 say this
"the mind" is something that i moltivateand treasime
"Thamks" you're welcome and besides it wasny F Plcasure

WHAT OF FAME?
everyone knows ute face.
Trite world Seneans ure name Never again R u Arne

## What of Fame?

evervone knows ure Face<br>The world sereams ure name<br>Nover again F u alone

THE SHINing Star Without Dedicated 2 Martin Monroe

Secrets $R$ hidden within the clouds of Darkness,
And in this place no one Pares 2. Breathe in Fear of self expression It has been This way forever And a day until she came 2 shine with a spark of innocence and questions only 2 be answered with Dorkness wot Just Darkness but the silent kind that steals your soul and kill your mind There was no compassion t for this thruiny star only exploitations and confused Jealousy $u$ saw no hope and brought the end Never aknowledging ot he star within

## The Shining Star Within!

Dedicated 2 Marilyn Monroe:
Secrels R hidden within the eloudsof Darliness,Afid in this place no one Daves 2 Bratho
in Trean of sclf-expression
It has been this way
forever and a day
until she came 2 shine
with a spark of innocence and questions
only 2 be answered with Darkness
Not just Darkness but the silent kind
that stcals your soul and kills yours mind
There was foo compelssion
for this thriving star
only exploitations
and comfused jealousy
usaw no hope and brought the end
Noter acknowledging the star within

STARRY Night
Dedicareb in memory of Vincent Van Gogh
a creative hears, assessed with satisfying This dormant and uncaring Society U hove given them the stars at night and u hove given then Bountiful Bouquets of Surtout But a w There is only contempt and though u pour youcselfinto that frame and present it so proudly - his word com not accept your Masterpieces from the heart

So on that story Night U gave 2 us ono.
U TOK away from us
The one thing we never acknowledged your life

## Starry Night

# Dedicated in Memory of Vincent van Gogh 

a creative heart, obsessed with satisfying
This dormant and uncaring society
ul have given them the stars at night and $u$ have given them Bountiful Bouquels of Sunflowers
But 4 ut there is only contempt
and though ur pour yourself into that fretine
and present it so proudly
this world could not accept your masterpices
from the heart
So on that starry night
ugave 2 us and
ut Look away from us
The one thing we never acknowledged your lile

IF I FAiL

If in my quest 2 chevre my goals
I Stumble or crumble and lose mu soul
Those that knew me would easily co-siqN
There was weaner a life as hard as move No fattier - wo money - no chance and guide. I owing follow my wore inside io it guides me wrong and I do sot w ra FEll yearn from mistakes and try 2 achitneagan

## If I Fail

If in ny quest 2 achicue my goals I stumble or erumble atad lose my soul Those that knew nee would easily co bisil
There was never a life as hard as inime
No father-no money-no chance and no gitcle
I only follow my voice inside
if it guides me wrong and I do not wint
I'll learto from mistakes and try 2 amhove again.

What is it that o search 4

I KNOW NOT what I senect 4 But I know I have yet 2 Find it, Because if is invertible 2 The $\infty$ My meant must search 4 it Blinded.

AND IF BY CHANCE I find it. will I know my mission is Achieved? Can one come conclusions. Before the question 1 is conceited?
Just as no ane knows
what lies beyond Tide shore, I will never Find the Answer 2 what it is that I Seared 4 .

## What Is It That I Search 4

II know not what. I searcli 4
But I know I have yet 2 find it.
Because it is invisible 2 the eye
My heart must search 4 it blinded.
And if by chance I find it.
Will I know my mission is achicwed?
Can one conne 2 conclusions.
Before the question is conceived?
Just as no ond knows
what lies beyond the shore.
I will never find the answer 2
What it is Lhat I seareh 4.

The Fear in the Heart of a Man Dedicated 2 my heart
against an a tracker I with Boldly Take my Stone Because my heart will shaw Fear if no man. But I a broken heart I run with fright scared 2 Be Bind in a vuluereble wight I Believe This For is in every than
some will acknowledge if other 5 will feet $z$ understand Them is no fear tin a shallow heart
Because shallow hearts Don fall aport
But feeling hearts that truly care
are frogite -2 the flow of arr
enol fa am 2 Be true thew I mu, 57 give my fragile heart
I may receive great Joy or u may return it ripped apart

# The Fear in the Heart of a Man Dedicated 2 My Heart 

against an atacken I will boldy take my stat becanse my heart will show lear 4 nom nada
but 4 a broken heart I rum with fright
scared 2 be blind an ad watrable night
I believe this Fear is in cvery man
some will acknowledge it others will fail 2 understand
there is no lear in a shallow heart
because shallow hearts don't lald apart
but fecling hearts that truly care
are fragile 2 the flow of air
and if I am 2 be tue then I inust give
my fregile heart
1 maty receive great joy or may return it
rippod apart

When I was Alone AnD had Nothing I asked 4 a friend 2 . help me bear the palm NO one came except... GoD
when I needed a breath 2 rise from my sleep no one could help me except... GOD
When All I saw was Sadness and I needed Answers no one heard me except.... Crop
So when I am askew w who I give my unconditional love 2 ? Look For no other Name


## God

Whers was atone and had nothing
I asked 4 a friend 2 help me bear the
pain no one cume except . . (GOD
whera $]$ needed a breath 2 risc
[rom my steep no ane moulc]
trelp ine oxcept ..... GOT
wher all I saw was sadness
atid] I needed answers no one
bent me except. . . . GOD
So whenl anrlasked who I
give my uncorndional love 2
look for no other mame
cxecpt ..... GO!


Notating Can Come Between us

Noriting Cans Come Between us 4 Jan 4
let's not talk of money
Let us forget the world 4 a moment lets dust revel? its our eternal comradery in my heart I trow There with never be a Day That a Dort $\frac{1}{2}$ remember e tie times we shared w were o friend when I was at my lowest and being a friend $z$, me was wot easy nor fachiongote Degasdess of how popular - become u remain My unconditional friend Unconditional in its truest sense Sid w time i would forget Did u t one moment Dream that I would igeroreu
if so Rompmboe this from here 2 forever Nothing Cat Come between us.

## Nothing Can Come Between Us

Ietsis rol talk of money
let us lorget the world
4 a monnent let"s just rewel
in our cternal comradery
in my Teaty. I kinow
there will never be a day
Lhat [ dont remember
the Limes we strarod
u were a frierd
when I was at my lowest
and being a friend 2 me
was not easy or fashionable
regardless ol how popular
I become u remain
nny unconditional fricnal
unsonditional in its trust sense
did ut hink I would forget
cied 4 a onc momerot dream
that I wound ignore 1.
if so remember this from here 2 forever
nothing can conne between us

My Dearest One \&\%

Thee R wo worDs 2 express How mulct, Truly care
So Many Times why Fomazize er Feelings lune cart share My HAS M- KNOWN
THE Joy u Bring 2 me
is if GOD brew what *y wanted

- ami made u a Reality

FiD Die 2 HolD u or 2 Kiss u of merely 2 c mar FAce
Ny STomach quivers my Ropy
two my increases pace $\angle$ give me 4 or Lots or Grin WOULD wot ge the same 2 me W. Prayed and watched The distant FSARS' $=$ ANO Finally u came 2 me:

Touthrur) (ont. afupac $A$ R

## My Dearest One!!

There $R$ no words 2 express
how much 1 iruly care
So many times I fantasize of
feelings we can share
My heart has never known
the Joy it bring 2 me
As if GOD knew what 1 wanted
and made ua reality
I'd die 2 hold u or 2 kiss u
or merely to sce your face
my stomach quivers my body shivers
and my heart increases pace
2 give me S or lols of gold
would not be the sanne 2 mc
I prayed and watched the distant stars
and finally u cance 2 me:

If THERE BE PAIN...
If There Be Pin,
All u need 200
is call on me 2. Be with 4
And Before $u$ hang up the phone
$u$ will no longer be alone
Together we can sever fall
Because our love will computer all
If There Be Pain,
Reach our 4 o hólping hand oud I shall hold $u$ wherever I am Every sheath I Breathe will be into $u$ 4 without a here my Joy 1 sthrough by life was live o Though falling rain so call on me if there be pain.


## If There Be Pain . . .

Il there be pain, all 11 need 2 do
is call on me 2 be with ut
And belore u hanse up the phone
u will no tonger be alone
Together we can nower fall
because ont bow will conquer allIf thene be pain,react out 4 a helping heandand I shatl hold u whercver I am
Every brealh I breathe will be into al
4. withoul at the why joy is 1 horough
Iny life wes lived through falling rain
so call on me if there be pain

Things The MAKE Hearts Break
pretty smiles
Deceiving laughs
and people who Dream wi th then eyes open
Lonely childreN
unanswered cries
and Souls who have given up hoping
The other thing that breaks Hearts R Gain y tales that never come true and selfisti people who lie. 2 me selfish people Just like u

## Things That Make Hearts Break

pretily smiles
deceiving laughs
and poople who dream with their eyes open
lonely children
unanswered cries
and souls who have given up hoping
The other thing that breaks hearts
Ik lairy tales that nover come trie
and selfish poople who lie 2 me
sclfish popple just like $u$

BLACK WOMAN
4. MAROUITA

The DAY I meT $u$ I sow strength arno I knew from that point on that $u$ were puce woman 2 me possessing a spinet that was strong
I. want Smiles 2 replace the Sorrow That u have encountered in the pass and since -it was stree the that attracted me 2 u it with take strautgth 2 make it lass
my Negative sine with attempt 2 change u But please Fight that as with your all it wal be your srregnth that hep us both standing while others around us Tall

## Black Woman

## 4 Marquita

> The day I met is 1 saw strength and I knew from that point on thal uwere plue woman 2 me potacesinge apirit that was strong

> 1 wani smiles 2 replatee the sorrow that u have cncountered in the pats and since it was strangh that atracted nee 2 u it will take strength 2 thake it last

My negative side will attempt 2 change u but please fight that with your all
it will be your strength that keep us both standing while others around us fall

And STiLL I LOVE U

I don't Have everything
as a matter of fact I don't have anything except a Dream of a Better Day. and you $z$ help me find my way
Being a man I am Sure 2 make mistakes But 2 . keep u $I$ would do all it fakes
and if it meant my love was really true Id gladly die and watch over u I wist a knew tow much I cared and see my lowe is True By the life wed share Even if $u$ changed your mind and said our love wattifue.
Id want 2 die continuously cry and still Id love

## And Still I Love U

I don't have everything as a matter of fact I don't have anything excepl. a dream of a better day and you 2 help me find my way
Being a man I am sure 2 make mistakes but 2 keep ul I would do all it takes and if it meand my love was really ture I'd gladly die and watch over u I wish u knew how inuch I cared u'd see my love is true by the life wed shate Even if 4 changed your mind and said our love wats chru I'd want 2 die continuously cry and siill I'd love u

Tue Mutual' Heartache?

Introduces with inmesence who would have even guesses that u weserefone I teas. peen se desperately searching 4 $u$ Talk as I De int yet b Der understand when I mumble 4 C as I be but your vision is burred by punivity
This is the bacciop that separates -us I cornet crass yer
There is 2 much of me that would frighten us $s$ I live Ja heartache because we cannot filly explore this love and what of your heart andre
Dens it feel as Sharp as mine No mater where I go or how ting it tors I mill Never recover from thisthutual Dame.

## The Mutual Heartache?

Introduced with Ennocence
who would have ever gucssed
that 14 were the one 1 had
been so desperately scarching 4
i. talk as I do but yot u don't
understand when I mumble
ucas I do lout your vision is
blured by navete
This is the barier that sepatates us
I cammol tross yet
Fhere is 2 much of me that
would frightern uso I dive in
hearlache becaluse we cannot.
fully explore chis love and
What of your heartache
Does it Foel ats sharp ats mine
No matter where I go or how long it takes
I will nower rogover from this inualual beartactue,

4 -ST IMRESEIONS
4 IRENE
Inst when Try Thant It seen it all our paths crosses and met arad I knew From the First glance
That w would be hard 2 get Hour eyes attracted me Frs But you reeked of sultry confidence I could nt wait 2 Touch lips and kiss with my Hearts intentions When we sid it was what I expected and 4 that moment we erase the tension of the awkwardness of First Date bitters and the initial Blind ante Firs y impressions we kissed again and I felt the passion OND THis was CUPIDS blessing .-

## lst Impressions

Just when I thought I'd sece it allour paths crossed and met
and I knew from the First glance
chat ulu would be hard 24 get
your eyes attracted me First
but you recked of sultry confidence
1 couldrn't wait 2 touch lipsand kiss with my Hearl"s intentionswhen we dic] it was what I expectedand 4 that moment we erased the lensionof the awkwardness of First Datc Jittersand the initial Blind Date Tirst impressionswe kissed again and I felt the passionand this was CUPID:s blessing

4 Irene

A Love unspoken

What of A love unspoken? is it weaker without a ware 2 Does this Love deserve 2 exist without a title Because I Dare not share its wame Does that make me cruel and cold 2 Deny the world of my salvation Because I. chose $z$ let it grow People Tend 2 choke that which they Do Not understand why Should' I be werey and with ind this love from MAN what of a love unspoken No one ever knows But this is a love that lasts and in secrecy it grows

## A Love Unspoken

What of a love umspoken? Is it weaker withoul a manme?
Does this lowe deserve 2 exist without a title
because I dare not shame its mame
Does that make me cruel and cold
2 deny the world of my salvation
because』 shose 2 let it grow
People tend 2 choke
that which they do not uncterstand
Why shouldrit I be weaty
and with hold this love from MAN
What of a love unspoken
no one ever knows
But this is a lowe that lasts
and in secrecy it grows

FOREVE AND TODAY
u Soy that u'll love me Forever But what arpent ToDay As the Dusk become Dawns and the yearsposson will u love meth meme 4 yif so let us rejoice end Bathe in constant Pleasure. if not spare my heart tony and I Shall reaver Befo fefonens And inf my Doubt r and? 5 upset u, forgive my fragile heart I Just wanted 2 know if ald love me forever Before Today would STARer!

## Forever and Today

U say that ull love me forcere but what about today
As the dusks become dawns and the years pass on will 11 love me the same way
if so let us rejoice and bathe in constant pleasure
if not spare my heart today and 1 shall recover before forever
Ard if my doubts and ?'s upset tu, forgive my fragile heart 1 . fust wanted 2 know if you'd love me forever before today would start!

WHEN I DO Kiss $\vec{u}$
I Haven yet for reasons of your own But soon Em Sure you'll Tire from Being alone. ut Haven't recovered from the pain of the past so $u$ stow me affections behind the wall of glass.. BuT when I do finally kiss u u will realize at hast my heart was true

## When I Do Kiss U

I haven't yet for reasoms of your own
But soon I'm sure you'll tive from being alone
a heven'l reeovered from the pain of the past
So u show me affoction behind the wall of glass
But when I do finally kiss un
if will realize at last nyy heat was true

Carmencita of the Bronc!
Dedicated 2 Carmen
$u$ SAw innocence at its Best.
I wanted u mure ThAn I wantepme
I remember my hast Bought at Night was of un and my First thought in the morning was of u It has been a long time since I've actually st and adored u' but every once in awhile your beautiful smile guides me through a day I hear us with another and u R expecting a I wish w goon tuck te is lucky 2 be able 2 wake up 2 u each morning cu in theowen

## Carmencita of the Bronx!

Dedicated 2 Carmen
1.1 saw innocence at its best

I wanted u more than I wanted me
I remember my last thought at higlnt was of u and my lirst thonght. in the moming was of $u$

It las been a long time since J've adotuatly sat and adored u but every once in awhtale Youm beandifu smile guides me though day I hear u R with amother and u IR expectirge.

I wish ungood luck lhe is ducky 2 be able
2 wake up 2 u each morning.
c u in heawen!

Every words
cuts 2 the mat
converatoms re ewheo
Ben they sift
is this what a wan?
is than what I want?
is this what Must Be?

- Tins is Nut a game

Tins is a breve
ore should be played
The other cherishes
I Leet 2 Hearts Braking ..
is This mat $u$ want
is This what I want
is This what muss Be 0

## Untitled

Every wordcuts 2 the heartconversations R endedbe4 they stant
is this what 1 want?
is Unis what. I want?
is this what
must be?
This is not a game
This is a love
one should be played
The other cherished
Ifeel 2 hearis breaking. .
is this what ul want?
is this what I want?
is this what mulst be?

You ask me 2 communicate WHAT IT IS I feel Within I SEARCH 4 words 2 assist But I find Nome 2 Help me Beg: in I guess love is just complicate o Love
is Just
complicates.

I THought knew My Hear's Desire. I Thought I quenched wy Burning fire I thought I wanted "A"
But "A was 2 mixed up with" B"
Then "C Manse me more confused
So "A" Turner off me and "B" feels
be Her. "C" is upset and lonely and me, I think Lave is complicated

Love is
Just Complicates.

## Love Is Just Complicated

you ask me 2 commmuncate what it is ll feel within

I search 4 words 2 assisl
but I find none 2 help ine begin
I guess love is just complicated Love

15
just
Complicated.
I thought II know my hearl's desire.
I thought I quenched my burning tive
I lhought. I wanted " A "
But "A" was 2 mixed up with "B"
Then " C " made me: more conlused
So "A" Lurned off me and " $\mathrm{B}^{\prime \prime}$ feels
better, "C" is upset and lonely
and the, 1 thinli Love is complicated.
Love
is
just
compliented.

$$
E \underset{\text { A different Live }}{L} \mathcal{B} A H
$$

I Remember whew u were lost and your soul was in the wind. IT was at this aw ward moment That u and I Became friends
But -Then your soul was found. and $u$ discovered celibacy But with this u forgot about me and our pood was a memory Ard Now "I c u felt it the Bow we made Before - pray 2 con it stands and severes never mane
Elizabeth
A Different Iove
1 remember when 1 were LOSTand your soul was in the wind
It was at this awkward moment
that u and I beame friends
But then your soul wats found
and us discovered celibacy
But with this in forgot about me
and our bond was a memory
And now I c . 1 felt it
the bond we made befor
1 praty 2 God it. stands
and severs never moreFrom B.S.A.

Know my $\vee$ Has lied before
To hin my heart has bed tofu but now t speaks with honesty of an invisible bond of friendship that: was formed in secrecy Coming for me the may seem hard but $2 G O D$ of swear its tut We $R$ friends for eternity and:-fotien of will always love $u$.


Pa. Just So u Don't Forget that I Am Here. For u. $u$ R $A$ True

# I Know My Heart Has Lied Before 

1 know my heart has lied before
bul now il speaks with honesty
of an invisible bond of tiemdship
that was formed in secrecy
Coming from me this may seem hard
but 2 GOD I swear il's truth
We R friends for eterinity
and Forever II will always love ut
With All My Heart.
\&
"Spirit"
P.S. Just so ud dont forget that
lam here for $\mathbf{u}$. U R a true friend.

FRom First Grandee,
4 Michelle From Zaps.
Fee 1-1 1920
From First Chance I. know exactly what would Be u and I- Have perfect Hearts Destines one Day 2 Be The circumstances Don' evens mater Because my himurese, And if $u$ don't omit 2 this it is $u$ whowilipesmplat

## From First Glance

4 Michelle From Zap's<br>Feb 1, 1990

From first glance I know exacly what would Be
u and I have periect hearts destined one day 2 Be The eircumstances don't even mater because my heart never lies

And if u don't admit 2 this it is 14 who will be surprised

1 FOR An ain

2 me your name AlONe is poetry
I barely Know y AND Already
I cont explain tits feeling I feed
$\angle A P R I L$
I WONT 2 C W From The Moment
14. Leave my side til the moment u return my nonchalant cold heart finally has eyes only - ApriL

So Now I risk iT di Just. U The feeling of boy Bring me I accept The ridicule
in exchange for the words a shore with me All OF THis \& fut more T will Do $4 A P R I L$
1 for April
2 me your name alone is poetry
I barely know u and already
I can'L explain this feeling ! fed4 AlPRL
I want $2 \mathrm{c} u$ from the moment
u leave my side till the moment u return
My nonchalant cold heart linally has eyes only 4 APRTL
So now I fisk it all
Just 4 the feeling of joy u bring me:
I accept the ridicule
in exchange for the words u share with me
All of this \& much more I will do
4 APRLL

Wife 4 Life

$$
\text { Dedicated } z \text { April }
$$

I tape u heard me when I asked $u$ that night 2 be my wife Not for this year of next. Rut mine for all your life 2 Accept me when I $\sin$ and under STAND me when it fail Not 2 mention standing the rain which comes down as hard as hall I. AM Not the Best of meN my faults could scare the might. But my heart is always pure 2 my whet litite

## Wife 4 Life

## Dedicated 2 April

I hope u heard me when I asked
uthat night 2 be my wife
Not for this ycar or next
But mine for all your life
2 accept me when I sin
and understand me when I fail
Not 2 mention standing the rain
which comes down as hard as hail
I am not the best of men
My laults could scare the night
But my heart is always pure 2 my wile 4 life


## Tears from a Star

## 4 Me \& April

My teats they fall with passion
Like tears conocived from stars
Full of brightness \& energy
Seen only from afar
Tonight these tears are
full of pain but also I cein feel
relief from my heart
Because the stigma is revealed
untathful and unforgiven
1 cannot bear 2 let this be
So J must be pure
2 only her lor elemity

THE I/AY APER April Dedicated $\frac{2}{2}$ the ovorce of


Tonal I waketfeel even lonelier But I c. positive potential A/H Heart shook much like the Quake then the pate was gone the aral breeze formed the frotress
Barricading my fragile Heart from pain
It /e for That I-4 Love U. and it was because i did love ll That I mus move on
as Long as I. Breathe
I wit remember.

$$
\therefore \quad W_{2} A B 7_{4}^{/ 1}
$$

# March lst-The Day After April Dedicated 2 the Divorce of Me \& April 

Today I wake and feel cwen lonelier
But I e positive potential
My heart shook much like the quatie
Then the pair was gone
The arctic brece formed the fortress
Barricading my fragile heart from Pain
It is inot that I clon't love ut
and it was because I did love u
that I must move on
as long as I breathe
I will remember
"WEAS2"
)
Whiv must u oci Linfatrof Fubli
MEN1
14 SHbunn't msten $z$ your serfint
 $\qquad$ Babder kieping u. Alive.
I-t 5 existerce is ist...vain

- Htow somlo I be so meant,
and Sey your heari he ho jhic i?
-Because MOCTAL MEN FALL iN to He Agai u
as Eust ass tity thange thetis face
I may ne cruel, But Ihiok abide about:
The hear 7 to The t 4 have. Bibken
MoTcti That with tw eppty now $S$ and brcker pemitr s.unt. Fromer I. Ar Not Say ting thates R perom
 But why muer u Be anfarthfiut If lae inesur is inutzo $1 / 1 /$
$\qquad$



## Why Must U Be Unfaithful

## MEN!

u shouldn't listen 2 your sellish heard
It doesn't really have a brain
Besides keeping of alive
lts existence is in vain
"How could I be so mean,
and say your heart. has mo place?
Because mortal men fall in love agein
as fast as they change their face
I may be cruel, but think awhile about
The hearts that u have broken
Match that with the emply vows
and broken promiscs u've sjooken
1 am not saying females R perfect
Because men we krow it's not true
But why must ube unfaitl]ful
If her heart is true 2 ul!!!!

The power of A smile
4 Renee'
The power of a gun can kill and the power of Fire can Burn The power of wind can chill and the power of the minis can learn The power of anger can rage inside until it tears u apart But the Power of a Smile especially yours con heal a frozentteart $\mathbb{O}$

# The Power of a Smile 

4 Rence

'The power of al gun can kill and the power of Fire can Burn<br>The power of wind can chill<br>and the power of the mind can learn<br>The power of anner can rage<br>inside until it tears u ajpart<br>But the Power of a Smile<br>espectally yours can heal a frozeti Hearl

Genesis (The rebirth of my heart) Dedrated 2 Renee Ross

First There was Nothing Not even the Fount echo of o Song Loneliness was Daily 4 me unit u came along.
There was a gleam of stars in your eyes I THought ID Never feel this way again But $u$ were the one 2 react into mylleart And find in me a Eriend
I could not ignore the magnetism that I felt when $u$ were NeaR And Any Problems Plaguing my mini

SudDenly Disappear
was the reBirth of my Heart The Day u Became my Friend Because I KNew From the moment I Held $u$ that I would Find love gain

# Genesis (The Rebirth of My Heart) <br> Dedicated 2 Renee Ross 

First there was notheng
Nol evern tho Cannd echo of at ang
Wonelimess was daily 4 me until is came along
There was a gleam of stats in your cyes
I thought I'd nover feel this way again
But u were the one 2 reach into my hearl
Atnd find in mo a Friend
I could not jghore the magnetism
t.]at I fell when u were mear
Ard any problems plequing my mind
would sudatenly disajppear
14 was the rebirth of my heart
The day 14 became my friend
Bocause I knew from the moment
I hedd a Lhat I would find love again
-Love Within A Storm 4 ELiza Both

We made love within a storm in the midst of passion ans cutmos somewhere, somehow our True bond of friendship was Lost

In the eye of the storm The rains always falls harder Those who prevail this Trauma will 2 Bring their love farther
But now the storm tues passed and the seas of our friendship ec calm But as long as I live I will rememember the love within the storm

## Love Within a Storm

## 4 Elizabeth

We made love withan a stormint the Inicdst of passion and chaossomowhere, somethow ous true bondol fiendslip was lost
In the eve of the storm
The rain always falls harder
Those who prevail this traumat
will learn 2 bring their love farther
But now the storm has passed
and the seas of out friendship R calm
But as long as I live I will rememberthe Iove within the stom

WHAT CAN I OFFER HER?

Ah of My life I Dreamed of meeting one with immense Beauty, and once I found her I would charm her and sherD se mine for ewer.

I Have forms hae and indeed she is all I wishes for and more but ste is wo - charmer mot intrigued. Then I Think 2 myself" what Can I offer her?" The tears warm my eyes and blur my vision I stick $z$ my stance of Bravaiso and give her the some winimiturested look She gave me. She was so beautiful But what cam I offer her

## What Can I Offer Her?

All of my life I dreamed of meeting one with immense boaty, and once I found her I would charm her and she do be mine forever.

I have found her and indeed she is all
I wished for and more but she is
not charmed nor intrigued. Then I
think 2 myself "What can I offer her?"
The tears warm my eyes and blur my vision. I stick 2 my stance of bravado and give her the same uninterested look
she gave me, She was so beautiful
But what can ! ofler her.


4 R. True origan of my Heart The foundation 4 my conception of Lave when I rink of what a Black woman should be it's $u$ that I First Think of
u will Never fully understand How Deeply my Heart Feels 4 u I worry that well grow apart and I'/l end up losing 4
u Bring me z-climan without sex and a do it all with regal grace u 2 my Heart in thmon Form a Friend I could Never replace

## Jacla

is R the omega of my Heant
The foundadion 4 my conception of Love
when I think of what a Black woman should be
it's ut that. I First thinle of
u will never finlly understand
How Deeply my I Koart Feels 4 ul
I wory that we'll grow apart
and J'll end up losing is
u.l bring mo 2 dimex without sex
and 11 do it all will regal grace
u R my Eleatt in Human Form
at Friend I could never replace
4 Jada

The Tears in Cupid's Eyes

$$
4 J A D A
$$

The Day $x$ chose 2 leave me it rained constantly ont side
In Truth I Swore the rain 2 be The tears in cupid's eyes


## The Tears in Cupid's Eyes

The day u chose 2 leave me
it rained constantly outside.
In truth I swore the rain 2 be
The tears in Cupid's eyes

CUPID's smile II
I ran outside 2 feel the rain and I stayed outside awhile when the rain was done along came the 5 un and this was cupids smile!

## Cupid's Smile II

I ran outside 2 feel the rain and I stayed oulside awhile when the tain was done along cane the sum and this was Cupid's Smile!

What Se SeE?

With mi y eyes closed I can $C$ we have o chance 2 Discover ecstacy
But The clouds of Doubt have made a Blind So u $e$ afraid of the emotions that u nay find I know Thai wive Been thur Before
But this is no excuse 4 u 2 ignore
The seed That cupid planted, in hopes tint we would sow Tits in font emotion Deserves 2 Bresture So why wont ale it grow A Neglecter flower with wither and on its awn it with sedplede BuT with honesty Passion, and mutual respect we can Som Bepantitery
 Believe in me though u cannot c what hes with um the Dark

## What I See!

With my cyes closed I can e
we have a chance 2 discover ecstasy
but the elouds of doubt have made ublind
so ur $R$ afraid of the enotions that undy lind
1 kiow that unve been hurt before
but this is mo excuse 4 u 2 ignore
the seed then cupid planted, in hopes that we would sow
This infant emotion clescrves 2 breathe so why worn't u let it grow
A neglectecl flower will wither and on its own it will surely dic
But with honesty, passion, and mutual respect we can soar beyond the sky
So please don't follow what ue follow the rhythm within your heart
Believe in me though u canot o what lies within the Dark
Th/E///DST of PASSioN

I THE MiDST OF PASSION 2 . Figures stand emerged in ecstasy joined hand t Hand words $R$ unNecessary feelings $R$ Heard. The Body Takes control Dat 2 words It is at this stage That I THink of $u$ In gratitude 4 this joy, u have exposedme $Z$ EAGH Day is Bright with you as the Lawn with the collapse of each wight a strong bowl is born In the midst of passion I Remember your kiss I. Reminisce abow your touch and sudolenlymss The scent u wear ant the tow of your wine
only u can be my choice
In the Midst of passion
I $C$ U \& MC DOST in CONSTANT ECSTASy..

## In the Midst of Passion

## (Adultery)

In the midst of passion 2 figures stand emerged in ecstasy joined hand and hand words R unnecessary leelings R heard the body takes control deat 2 words It is at this stage that I think of u in gratitude 4 this joy u have exposed me 2 Each Daty is Bright with you as the Dawn with the collapse of each night a strong bond is born In the midst of passion I rementer your kiss I reminisce about your touch and suddemly miss Whe scent it war and the tone of your voice Only u can be my choice In the rnidelst of passion

1 ct d me
Lost in constant ecstasy?!

2 PEOPLE WITH 1 WISH
There were 2 people with one wish. 2 Live a Life filled with Love 2 GOD they would pray that 2 gether they stay Under the stars above
But someone else. MADE A Wish at The same Time on The same Breath And although the wish 4 love was granted so was this evil wish 4 Death NOW I MAKE A WiSH Sealed WITH TEARS AND LAVGHTER IT is My NISH THAT THese 2 Loves R Reunited in THE Hereafter

## 2 People with 1 Wish

There were 2 people with one wish
2 live a Life filled with Love
2 GOD they would pray that. 2gether theyd stay
under the stars above
But someone else made al wish
at. the same time on the same breath
And although the wish 4 love was granted
so was this evil wish 4 Death
Now 1 malke a wish
scaled with tears and laughter
It is my wish that these 2 loves
R reunited in the hereafter

Hours Pass By
I THink of $u$ in my Arms AND what it would be like 2 Make Low. I think of $u$ raising my SEED AND whet they'd bise made of
I THink of How Alone I was. Before u came 2 Be I Think of the Joy I felt when u said u THong ht of me, - Hours pass by and cupid cries until we meet again
In proud 2 Be the Heart $u$ choose 2 make a Friend.

## Hours Pass By

I think of $u$ in my arms atrd what it would be like 2 make love

1 think of ta rasing my SEED and what they'd be made of
I think of how alune I was before a came 2 be
I think of the joy Ifolt When at said a thought of me:
I'm proud 2 be the beart ul choose 2 make al friend

Hours pass by and cupid cries until we meet again


Sust A Brearh of Freedom

Just A Breath of Freciom
4 Nelson Mandela
Held captive 4 your politics
they Wanted 2 Break your soul They ordered the extermination of all minos they could net control 4 u the fate was Ear worse
Than Just a Brutal homicide
They caged u like an animal AND Watched u Slowly die inside As 4 Breath your first air of freedom On the day u become a free mon Raise your Regal Brow in Pride 4 now you R in Gao's. Hands
The life of many were given
so that the day would owe day come That the devils in Power at Pretoria would pay for the evil crimes theyve dove

## Just a Breath of Freedom 4 Nelson Mandela

Held captive 4 your politics
They wanted 2 break your soul
They ordered the extcrmination
of all minirds they couldri't control
4 ut the fate was far worse
then just a brutal homicide
They caged a like an animal
and watched al slowly die irsside
As is Breathe your first air of freedom
on the day $u$ become a free man
Raise your Regall Brow in Pride
4 now you R in God's Hands
The life of many were given
so that the day would one day come
That the devils in Power at Pretoria
would pay for the evil crimes they we done

For MRS Hawkins
In memory of fused Hawkins
This poem is Adressed 2 Mrs Hawkins wto loss her son 2 a racist sociery Inn Nor our 2 offend the positive Souls Only The racist Dogs with lied 2 me An American culture plague with Nights Like the night yusef was killed if if were reversed it would be the work of a savage but this white killer wasjuss sided But Mrs Hawkins as sure AS In a Further with the Blood of Malcolm in my views America will never res if Yusef Dies in Vain?

## For Mrs. Hawkins

## In Memory of Yusel Hawkins

This poem is addressed 2 Mrs. Hawkins who lost her son 2 a racist society
I'm not out 2 offernd the positive souls
only the racist dogs who lied 2 me
An Amerigare culture plagned with gights
lake the night Yusef wals killed
if it were reversed it would be the work
of a savage but this white killer was just strong-willed But Mrs. Hawkins as sure as rma Danther with the blood of Malcolm in my veins Amemica will never rest.
if Yused dles in wain!

The Sun mad The Moon

Hour ways. Re singular 2 The rays of The sunk whom 2 many buT 2 sro mg 4 some
 HATCHES \& 2 Long AWD yow Brilliance will Blind
 That regret $2 c$ un उलT BuT it is time 4 tho Moon

## The Sun and the Moon

Your ways R similar 2 the rays of the sum Warm 2 many but 2 strong 4 some The more u R needed the brighter a shine Watched 42 long and your biriliance will blind The eyes of thortal men who threaten u with doom They regret 2 c u set. but it is time 4 the moon
"FALLEN STAR"

4 -Huey P. Newton
They com is never understand
whit u set out $z$ do
instead they chose 2
ridicule u
when $u$ got weak
They loved the sight
of your dimming
and Aickering-ntar-hight
How could they understand what was so intricate 2 Be loved by so many, so intimate they war ted 2 o your lifeless corpse This way in could not alter the course of ignorance that they hove sect 2 make my people forget 2 hat they have done for much 2 long. 2 lust forget and carte on who ur I had gov er now I mourn our fallen Star
ANd now

## "Fallen Star"

## 4 Huey P. Newtoni

They could mever urderstand
what u sel out 2 do
instead they chose 2
ricijente: 1
When u got wcak
They loved the sight
of Your dimming
and flickering starlight
How could they understand what was so intricate
2 be lowed by so many, so intimate.
they wanted 2 e your lifeless corpse
This way a coldel int alter the course
of ignorance that they have set
2 make my people forget
what they fiave done for mute 2 long
2 just forget and carry on
1 hat lowed 11 torever because of who u R
And riow I mons'rl our lallen stat

Government Assistance or
My SouL
If would be like a powder asking a panther hunter 4 Some meat. All
High School Dropouts R- Not Dumb All unemployed ament lazy and there 2 many Days I hunger But I would go hungry and homeless Before the American Governmentigets my bul
Government Assistanceor
My Soul
It would be like a panthes
asking a panther hunter
4 some meat, all
High school dropouts R inot DUMB
All unemployed aren't lacy
and there R many days 1 hunger
But I would go hungry and homeless
Before the American Govermment gets my soul

Family Tree 4 Mother
Because we ell spring From Different Trees Does Not mean?
we are NoT createD Equally
Is The True Beauty in the Tree or in the vast forest in which it breathes THE Tree must FIGHT 2 greed Among trite vil of the weeds.
I Find greatness in the Tree That grows Against all odds it Blossoms ha Darkness and gives birth 2 promising Pods.
I was tue tree who grew from weeds and wgsnt meant 2 Be Ashamed IM NOT in fact I am proud of my Nitriding Family Tree

## Family Tree

Becatuse we all spring
from diffrent trees
does not mean
we are not created equally
Is the true beatity in the tree
or in the tast lorest in which it breathes
the 1ree must light 2 breed
among the evils of the weeds
I find greatmess in the tree
that grows against all odds
it blotsons in darkness
and gives birth 2 promising pods.
I was the tree who grew from weds
ant wasn"t meant 2 be
ashamed I'm boot in fact I am proud
of my thriwing family tree

OR MY SOul bedated 2 MOMS Dedicates 2 The Dowiers
The cheice is no stranger $z$ poverty your Soul or Government Assistance I'm 18 in a Country with no paith 4 A young unaddictes Black yourt with a Drem Instead I am giving the ultronatum: …

# Or My Soul 

## Dedicated 2 Mons <br> Dedicated 2 the Powers That B

The choice is no stranger 2 poverty<br>your soul or Government Assistance<br>I'm 18 in a country with no path<br>4 a young unaddicted Black youth with a Dream Inslead I am giving the Ultimatum.

WHEN GRE HERO FALLS
4 my Hero/ my hover)
When your hero falls from grace all fairy tales $R$ uncovered myths exposed and pain mogntfied The greatest pain Discovered U Thought me 2 Be strong But Ism confused 2- $c$ u so weak u sard never 2 give up and it hurts 2 cu welcome defeat When wee tho fells so Do the stars and So does the perception of tomorrow without my Hero there is only me alone 2 deal with my Sorrow. your Heart ceases 2 work. and pour Sow is not happy at a// what $R$ u egreaco 2 Do when one only Hero folds
When Ure Hero Falls
when your hero falls from grace
all hairy tales R uncovered
mylths exposed and pain magnified
the greatest pain discovered
a taught me 2 be strong
but ["in comlused 2 e u so weak
11 said nover 2 give up
and it hurts 2 e u welcome defeat
when ume Hero Falls so do the stars
and so doos the perception of tomorrow
without my lfero there is only
me alone 2 deal with any somow.
your Hearl ceases 2 work
and your soul is mot happy al all
what k wexpected 2 do
when ure only Hero Jalls4 My I Iero (My Mother)

Untired
Strength is overcome by weakness Soy is overcome By Pain the Night is overcome by Bright ness and Love - it remains the same

## Untitled

Strength is overcome by weakness Joy is overcome by Pain The night is overomme by Bightmess
and Love-it remains the same
4.

UR Ripping us Apart :!!
Dedicate 2 CRACK
Before u came The Triangle Never Brake we were bender and melded as one Bur as the 2 pushier $u$ away The one got weak and entoracep ut and Now u Re Ripping us Apart

The worst feeling of helplessness
The greatest pain has rester in my heart The vision of heaven fades and the Nightmare of loneliness has started

My tiro mas been defeated by you. and now what can I do Ward as u Destroy us and our love is finally Titeough
I know the worst is pere
I feel it in my hearT. u get into the creche mow n yours tearing us apart

## "U R Ripping Us Apart !!!"

Dedicated 2 Crack

Before u cance the triangle never broke
we were bonded and melded as one
But as the 2 pushed in away
The orie gol weak and embraced u
and now u k rippinis us apart
The worst fecling of helplessness
The greatest pain has rested in my beart
The vision of heaven fades
and the mishtmare of loneliness has started

My Hero has been deleated by you and now what can I do
watch as u destroy us
and our love is fintally through

I know the worst is here
I feel it in my Heart
1.1 got into the circle
now you're tearing us apart !!!!!!!!!!!!

A River that flows Forever r 4 mother
As Long as some suffer
The River Flows Forever As long as there is pain

The River flows forever As strong as a suite con be
the River will flow Forever And as long as $4 R$ with me wert ride the River Together

## A River That Flows Forever

4 Mother

As long as some suffer<br>The River Flows Forever<br>As longs ats there is pain<br>The River Flows Forever<br>As strong ats amile can be<br>The Fiver will Flow Foresta<br>And as long as u R with me<br>we'll ride the River Together

Can u C the Pride In The Panther

Cow o $c$ the pride in the ponika as me glows in splewion and grace Toppling obstacles. placed in the way of the progressions of his Race
Cans $u<$ the pride in the Pawtha as she nurtures her young all alone The seed must. grow regardless. of the fact that its planted in stowe.

BArit u c the Pride in the panthas as they unific as one the flower blooms with brilliance and outshines the rays of the sunk

## Can U C the Pride in the Panther

Can un ot the pride in the parntha as he glows in splendor and grace Toppling OBSTACLES placed in the way of the progression of his race

Can us the pride in the Panthat as she nurt ures her yong all alone
The seed must grow regardless of the fact that it's planted in stone

Can't ue the pride in the palnthas
as they unify as one
The flower blooms with brilliance
and outshincs the rays of the sun
n ar sop A Teenage Mother
He's Bragging about his New Jordons the Baby Just ram out of milk He's Buying gold every 2 weeks The Baby Just ran out of Pampers We's buying cloths for his new girl \& the Baby Just ram out of Medicine U ask for Money for the Baby the Daddy Just ran out the Door

## Tears of a Teenage Mother

He's bragging about his new Jordans the Baby just ran out of milk
He's buying gold every 2 werks the Baby just ran out of Pampers
Hes buying clothes for tris new gir] \& the Baty just ram out of medicine un ask for moncy for the Baby the Daddy just ran out the Door

11
Where THERE IS A With ord

Where there is a will
There is A way
2 Search and discover
a Better Day
Where a positwe heart
is at w Needs
2 Rise BeyonD and sugared

Where Young maids grow and respect each other
Based ore thew Deeds and not" their color
when -imps z -mm
Say as ry Say..
"where tree is a will
There is a way i"

## "Where There Is a Will. . . ."

Where there is a will
there is a way
2 seareh and discover
a better day
Where a positive heart.
is all unced
2 Rise Bryonk
and surceed
Where young minds grow
and respect cach other
based on their Deeds
and not their color
When tines R dimu
say an I say
"Where there is a will
There is a way"


Liberty Needs Glasses

Liberty Needs Glasses
excuse me But labylibery wee os glasses And So Does mrs Justice By her side Both the Broads 2 Blind As Bats STumbling Titru the system. Justice Thumbed into Mutulu and. Trippin' on Geronimo Pratt But stepped right over e offer AND his crooked partner Ronnie Justice stubbed her Big toe on Mandela AND liberty was mas quoteD By the inilions slavery was a learning pHrase Forgotten with out a verdict while Justice is on a rampage 4 endangered Survidog Black mates
I mean really if anyone really values wite and cares about the masses.
They take em Both 2 Pen optical and get 2 pair of Glosses.

## Liberty Needs Glasses

cxcuse me but Lady Liberty mexds glasses
And so does Mrs, Justice by her side
Foth the broads $k$ blind as bats
Stumbling thru the system
Justice bumped into Mutulu and
"Trippint orl Geronimo F'extl
But stepped right over Oliver
And his crooked partner Romnie
Instice stubhed her Big Toe on Mandela
And liberly was misquoled by the Indians
slawery wats a learminis phase
Forgoticr willooul a verdicl
while Justice is on a mompage
4 endangerod sumviving Black males
I monn really if anyone realty walled lite
and cared abont the masses
Theyd take "em both 2 I'en Optical
and get 2 pairs of glasses

How Can We Be Free

Sometimes I wonder about -the race Because we Must be Blimp as Hell 2. Think we live in equality while Nelson Mandela rots in a jade cell Witere the shores of Howard Beach
are Full of Afikn Corpses
And those the Do live 2 Be 18 Bumbust 2 Join the Armed Forces In ts so called"teme of tho Brave" why int anybody Backing us up! When they $\theta$ these crooked ass rednekcops constantly Jacking us up
Now I bet some punk quill say Racist I can tell by the way you smile at me Than I remember George Jadson, Huey Neuron and creronimo and 2 hel with lady liberty

## How Can We Be Free

Sometimes I wonder about this race
Because we must be blind as hell
2 think we live in equality
while Nelson Mandelat rots in a jail cell
Where the shores of Howard Beach
are linll ol Arrikan oorpses
Arnd those that do live 2 be 18
Bummaslo 2 jom the Armed Forees
This so called "Home of the Brave"
why isn't amybody Backing us up!
When they o these crooked ass Rednedi cops
oonstantly Jackitg us up
Now [ bet some punk wit] say [nu racest
I can toll by we way you smile at me
them I romember Gogrge Jackson, Huey Nowton
and Geronimo 2 hell wilh deady hibery
THE

i
I will give u higertyibut First give me wee spirit, THis f I must confiscate Because the suit Ear it". I Too would be Afraid of passion governed By Resin An open mind 2 trying times when corruption is in Tie promise that they claim

2 Be completely True
is hypocrisy ar its finest
A Trick 2 silence u
Never will I tseleve a promise
from the masters of the Art
Trickery Does Not Succeed With those with Honest Hearts

## The Promise

"I will give to liberty, but first give me ure spiril, This I must confiscate because the evil Fear il." IT too would be afrad of passion governect by reason An open mind 2 trying times when cortuption is in seasory
The promise that they claim
2 be completely true
is hypocrisy at its finest
A trick 2 silence 4
never will I believe a promise
from the masters of the Att
Trickery does not succeed
with those with Honest Hearts

And $\square$ 2


Today is Filled with anger Fuelled with Hinder hate Scared of Being outcast Afraid of common Fate
ToDAy is Built on tragedies WHICH No one wants 2 Face NiGtimares 2 Humanities anis Morally Disgraces
To night is filter with rage Violence in the Air
citildran Bred with Ruthlessness
Because mo one AT tome cares Tonight I Lay my Herd Down But the pressure Never stops ar wing at my sanity CONTQNT when I AM Dropped
But 2 morrow I change A chance 2 Bald A New Built on spirit intent of Heart and ideals Based on truth
AnD Tomorrow I wake with second wind Arse stern Because of pride
2 KNOW I FOUGHT With All my k ear 2 kep My Dream alive

## And 2morrow

Today is filled wilh anger
Fucled with hidden hate
Scared of being outeast
Afrairl of commori fate
Today is busilt on tragedies
which mo one wants 2 face
Nightmares 2 himmanitics
and moratly disgremed
Tonight is filled wilt rage
Violence in the air
Children bred with ruthlessiness
Becallse mo one at horic cares
Tonight. I lay my head dowin
But the presshre never stops
grawing at my samity
content when lan dropped
Fut 2 norrow 1 C change
A chance 2 buide anew
Built on sipirit, intent of heart
and ideals hased on truth
Ard 2 nomrow 1 wake with socond witad
And strong becatuse ol pride


$$
N O \cdot W I N
$$

(Dream poem)
Backed into a corner alonerand very confused Tined of running away my Mantrox has been abused Not My choice 2 Be so blunt But u must fight fire with flame I allowed myself' 2 run once and was haunted by the shame if I MusT Kill I will and if I must do it it I would but the situation is a no wind

## No-Win

(Dream poem)
Backed into a corner
alone and very confused
Tired of rumning away
Mry manhood has been absased
Not my choice 2 be so blunt
Bual urast fight fire with flame:
1 allowed mysell 2 nun ance
and was haunted by the shame
if I Imust kill I will and if I hus do it again
I would but the situation is a mo-win
manexis
THE UNANSWerable?
Question:
WHEN WILL THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH?
Answer : WHeN THE EARETH FALLS 2 PIeCES!!

## The Unanswerable?

QUESTION:<br>WHEN WTLL THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH? ANSWER: WTIEN THE EARTH FALLS 2 PIECES!!

Nightmares
Dedicated 2 Titose curious
pour my tear ins this poem and took a the meaning of life the rich and powerful always prevail and the less fortunate strive through trite Mistakes $R$ Made 2 Be 4 given We $R 2$ young 2 stress an suffer The part of purity and positinety has always ridden ratter Your usatade Desire 2 Find perfection Hes made your faults magnify curiousity can tare blame
for the evil that makes cry I- isnt a good Feeling when u disobey your hair the Nightmares hound your Soul and you reaves Ripe

## Nightmares

## Dedicated 2 Those Curious

1 pour my heart in' this poem and look 4 the meaning of Lite the rich and powerful alweys prevail
and the less fortunate strive through strile MISTAKES R MADE 2 be 4 giver
we $R 2$ young 2 stress and suffer
The path of purity and positivity
has always ridder rougher
Your insatiable desire 2 find perfection
Hats made your faults magrily
Curiosity can take Blame
For the evil that makes u cry
It isn'l a good feeling when u disobey your Heart
The nidghtmares haunt your Soul and your nerves R ripped apart
$50-$ say $(T J Y D B / E$
NOV 20

I m gong in z this not knowing what tiblyind But five Decided 2 Fothow nus heart ABANDON NY mind and if There Be pain I Know That at least I gave my all and it is Better 2 reave loved \& lost thaw 2 Not love at alt In The Morning I may wake 2 smile or maybe 2 fry But first 2 rose of my past I must say goodBye.

## So I Say GOODBYE

Nov 20

Irm going in2 this not knowing what. I'll find
but [ve decided 2 follow my hearl and abandon my mind and if there be pain I know that at least I gave my all and it is better 2 have lowed and lost than 2 not love at all In the morning I may wake 2 smile or maybe 2 cry but first 2 those of my pust 1 minst sey goodrye

In The Event of My Demise Dedicates 2 those curious

In the event of my Demise when my heart can beat no more I Hope I Die For A Principle or A Belief that I had lived 4 I will die Before my time. Because I feel the shodow's Depth so much I waved 2 accomplish Before I reached my Death I have come 2 grips with the possibum and wiped the fast tear from my eyes I LoveD All who were Positive In the event of my Demise.!


TUPAC AmARUSIAKUR
$1971-1996$

To join the 2PAC legacy fan club send $\$ 25$ (U.S.) or $\$ 30$(non-U.S.) check or money order (no cash) along with yourapplication to:
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Call the information hotline at (404) 508-0901
$\qquad$

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Address: $\qquad$
City: $\qquad$ State: $\qquad$ Zip Code: $\qquad$
e-mail: $\qquad$
t-shirt size:

$\square$
L XL XXL
Your one-year membership includes a quarterly newsletter,2PAC t-shirt. and a photograph.


In The Event of My Demise Densaize 2 those curious

In the event of my Demise when my heart can bat no more I tope I Die for a Principle or A Belief that I hod lived 4 "I will che Before my time Because. I Feel the shadow's Depth So much I warier 2 accomplish Before I reached my Death I- have come 2 grips with the possibeltht and wiped the fast tear from my eyes I. Loved All who were Positive I. in the event of my Demise.


